



# PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY REPORT

**MISSION:** Focusing on the education and workforce development needs of communities in the Salinas Valley, Hartnell College strengthens communities by providing opportunities for students to reach career and/or academic goals (associate degrees, certificates of achievement, transfer to four-year institutions) in an environment committed to student learning, achievement and success.

September 23, 2022

## Share your news!

The President's Weekly Report highlights accomplishment, engagement, progress, and success for and within the Hartnell College community. The President's Weekly Report will be distributed every two weeks. Please send information and photos by each Tuesday to [vagonzalez@hartnell.edu](mailto:vagonzalez@hartnell.edu).

## Bridges

I held my second office hour on Thursday, and I was happy to see some new faces among the two dozen or so employees that were able to join the Zoom meeting. It takes time to really get to know the people who make an institution what it is, and my hope is that this tradition of holding regular meetings like this can help not only me, but also others, to make those connections.

I started the meeting by announcing that there were four updates that I wanted to share—up-to-the-minute enrollment information, a budget snapshot, our upcoming rekeying project, and our recent hire in a critical cabinet position (more on that in a future issue) -- but most of the interesting conversation actually occurred while we were exploring, as an interactive group, issues of concern for one or more of the attendees.

At one point, I offered my opinion that we are not a destination, we are a bridge, and what I meant by that is that, if we are doing our jobs right, our students will pass through Hartnell on their way to somewhere else, whether that destination is a four-year college, a coveted job, a better salary, improved professional and life skills, or a way to enhance their family's lives. We are a bridge to whatever their goals direct them toward. Sure, we want them to be comfortable along the way, to feel our support and our encouragement, but they didn't come here to stay. We are their bridge to their future.

What I didn't intend, but definitely saw, was that these office hour meetings are also a bridge for us. They are a bridge to connect us to each other from our various locations, our various roles within the college, and our different histories and points of view. They are a bridge that allows us to share information and perspectives with others who we might not actually interact with were it not for these opportunities. And, by creating these bridges and broadening our own perspectives of what we can do to put students first at Hartnell, we make Hartnell a better bridge for our students.



# Accreditation Midterm Report Proceeds on Schedule



In June 2019, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges announced that it was reaffirming accreditation for Hartnell College for seven years, the longest period for accreditation review possible. The announcement noted several commendations for the college, and an “appreciation for the diligent work and thoughtful reflection that Hartnell College undertook to prepare for this evaluation.”

All educational institutions undergoing regular accreditation review are required to submit a Midterm Report roughly in the middle of the review cycle. For Hartnell, that report is due on March 15, 2023.

Hartnell’s Accreditation Council, a governance council comprising membership from all employee classifications, has been focused on this process and report since the previous review. Last spring, writing teams from the Council completed a first full draft of the Midterm Report.

The draft report was reviewed at the Council’s first meeting of this academic year, held on Monday, September 19th, and co-chaired by Dr. Cathryn Wilkinson, vice president of academic affairs, and faculty member David Beymer.

The Midterm Report will be distributed to other participatory governance councils and important leadership groups for courtesy review throughout the fall, and is scheduled to go to the Board of Trustees for a first reading in January.

The Accreditation Council’s membership, its writing teams, and the widespread sharing of its work with other councils and employee and student leadership groups, ensures the “broad participation by the campus community” that must be evidenced in an accreditation midterm report.

Accreditation, a peer-reviewed process, is the primary way that a college assures the educational community, the general public, and other agencies that it has established clearly defined goals that are appropriate to higher education, and has the structure, processes, and staffing in place to meet them and continue to meet them for the foreseeable future.

## Career Technical Education Staff Visits El Puente

Hartnell College was the special guest at El Puente School’s Wolf Trail Wednesday program on September 14. Staff from Hartnell’s Career Technical Education programs shared information with students to show them some of the possibilities for their continuing education at Hartnell in general and at the Alisal Campus in particular. Agricultural Engineering Instructor Richard Chapman provided compelling information about the manufacturing/mechatronics programs, helping students connect the dots between mechanics and electronics. All students were invited to visit the labs and shops to see for themselves what a



good fit those programs could be. El Puente is an alternative school within the Salinas Unified High School District that follows an independent study model.

## Federal Funds Added to Students' CatCards

Through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) Institutional Funding, in mid-September, Hartnell College made a one-time award of \$200 to students who were currently enrolled in 3 units or more. The funds, added to the balance of their student CatCard, were awarded to all 6,499 students who met that criterion. The CatCard can be used for any purchases at The Grille, Starbucks, and the Bookstore. These funds, part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, are meant to alleviate some of the rising costs of being a student.



## Welcoming, Celebrating Students

To mark the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, Hartnell's Office of Student Life held celebrations at our King City and Soledad Education centers, Alisal Campus, and Main Campus with free food and music. Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually in the United States from September 15 to October 15 to recognize the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements for the country. "I want to thank everyone who was able to attend our Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations," said ASHC President Apolonia Preciado Castillo. "We had an amazing turn out! Students enjoyed their free lunch as they listened and danced to Mariachi."

Since the start of the fall semester, The Office of Student Life has been hard at work engaging students and urging them to get involved in the life of the college. The start of the fall semester, deemed Welcome Week, featured activities each day to welcome students back to campus. On Monday, the ASHC assisted students to find their classes and download important apps such as TimelyCare, and provided free snow cones. The college held a resource fair in the Student Center on Tuesday and Wednesday to introduce many of the varied programs Hartnell offers. On Thursday, "Club Rush" gave students the opportunity to learn more about the clubs offered on campus and to sign up.



## Veteran Center Celebrates 10 Years

The Veteran Service Center celebrated its 10-year anniversary on September 22 with an open house for students, employees, and community members to come together and congratulate the center for its history of support for student veterans and their families.

The two-hour event offered sandwiches, fruit trays, and desserts and invited attendees to share their own stories of how the Center had positively impacted their lives. Gemma Uribe-Cruz, counselor for veteran



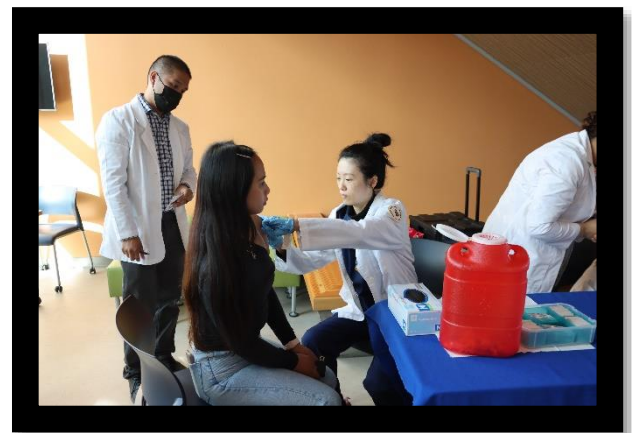
services, said "I'm proud of the sense of family that we have been able to create. It has allowed students to regain the sense of brotherhood and sisterhood that they had while in the military."

Board Vice President Candi DePauw expressed her sincere gratitude to student veterans for all of the sacrifices they made for our country. Board member Alejandra González also was there to show her support.

"Our primary job in this center is to provide a welcoming, comfortable, and supportive environment for all our student veterans and dependents. This is more than a job; this is our duty to those who have fought for our freedom," said Ligia Polio, program assistant for the Center.

## Students Administer Booster Shots

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Hartnell emerged as a leader in prevention for folks in the Salinas Valley. Nursing and Health Sciences students stepped up to provide vaccines, and their department loaned out equipment that hospitals and emergency rooms needed. On Monday, September 19, the students partnered with the Central Coast Visiting Nurse Association to offer free, newly authorized bivalent booster shots at a morning clinic. 196 students, faculty, and staff rolled up their sleeves to receive a dosage of Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech boosters available in the lobby of Building O on the main campus. These shots offer additional protection against the newly dominant Omicron variant strains.



## Forty-five Years and Counting!



What does it take to be the longest-serving classified staff member at Hartnell College? Just ask Joanne Pleak, assistant to the Public Safety and Emergency Management Director, and the administrative assistant III in charge of facilities and events scheduling. She knows. On September 21, she celebrated 45 years on Hartnell's staff. That means she has known all the presidents going back to Dr. Gibb Madsen, that she started work on a typewriter, that she has held four different employee classifications, and that she has supported deans, directors, and vice presidents in nearly every corner of the college.

"The many classifications of support lead to one thing," Joanne says confidently, "to support our students, faculty, and community who come to Hartnell." As an alumna of Hartnell, Joanne is grateful for the opportunity to grow in her job, to work with such dedicated peers, and to hear about the successes of those who pass through Hartnell and continue their path of learning and connecting with others. Congratulations, Joanne!

# Comings and Goings

## Warm Welcome To a New Role . . .

Louann Raras, former Human Resources Specialist, started in her new role of COVID Supervisor on September 12.

## Fond Farewell

To Paul Casey, director of student categorical programs, who is retiring after 42 years at Hartnell. On September 15, faculty members and staff gave their best wishes to Paul on his retirement.

To Kerry Gray, network administrator, who is retiring after 27 years at Hartnell.

The Board of Trustees gave Paul and Kerry plaques recognizing their contributions to Hartnell for a combined 69 years at its development meeting on September 20.



## In the News

### California Rodeo Salinas awards college scholarships

<https://kingcityrustler.com/california-rodeo-salinas-awards-college-scholarships/>

## Upcoming Events

### Memorial Exhibition of Claes Oldenburg

Monday - Thursday 9 -11:00 a.m. & 3-5:30 p.m.  
September 6- October 20  
Hartnell College Gallery  
Visual Arts Building J

### "Head Over Heels"

September 17- October 1  
The Western Stage  
[www.westernstage.com/tickets](http://www.westernstage.com/tickets)

### Trauma Informed Practices: Impact on Teaching & Learning

12-1:30 p.m.  
Friday, September 30  
Main Campus, Building S, Room 218

### Men's Soccer vs. Las Positas

1:30 p.m.  
Friday, September 30  
Hartnell Soccer Field



**Women's Soccer vs. Las Positas**

4 p.m.  
Friday, September 30  
Hartnell Soccer Field

**Women's Soccer vs. Evergreen**

1:30 p.m.  
Friday, October 7  
Hartnell Soccer Field

**Men's Soccer vs. Chabot**

4 p.m.  
Friday, October 7  
Hartnell Soccer Field

**Women's Volleyball vs. San Mateo**

6:30 p.m.  
Friday, October 7  
Hartnell Gymnasium

**Football vs. Gavilan**

1 p.m.  
Saturday, October 8  
Rabobank Stadium

